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Ag 84M

CORE LIST

HEIFER BARN

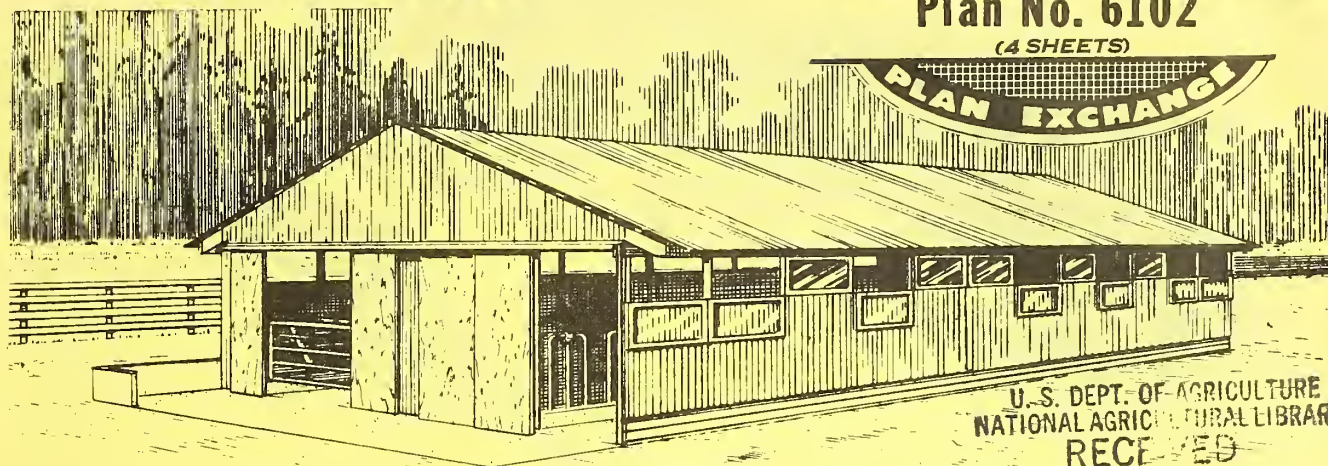
...free stall



Plan No. 6102

(4 SHEETS)

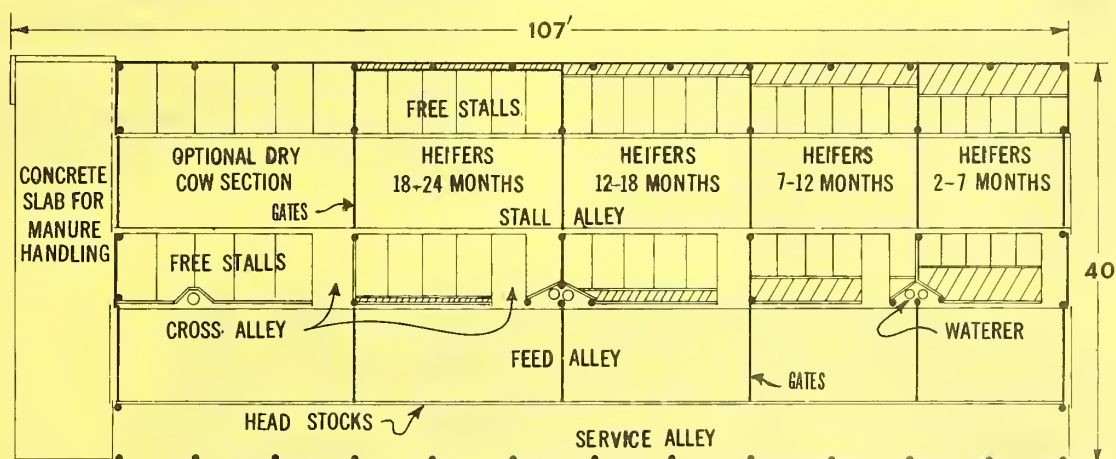
PLAN EXCHANGE



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PROCUREMENT SECTION
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Dairymen have long faced the problem of providing adequate facilities for feeding heifers. Costs of producing herd replacements have been high in labor and bedding materials.

In many cases, feed was wasted because of poor feeding devices, with parasite problems as a secondary hazard.

Heifers lacking sufficient feed will not grow as large as desired, thereby reducing their potential production capacity as dairy cows. Separation into groups based on size and aggressiveness is vital for small animals to get their proper share of the feed. They cannot compete with

larger animals and still maintain a normal rate of growth.

Heifers adjust readily to free stalls at a very young age, but the problem has been to feed and bed groups of animals with minimum labor. Also, how do you efficiently clean a barn subdivided into several pens or units of free stalls?

Working cooperatively with county dairymen, a county agent and the extension agricultural engineer devised a plan to meet dairymen's specific needs. A barn was built and its plan put into the extension plan service. About 12 units were built and minor changes

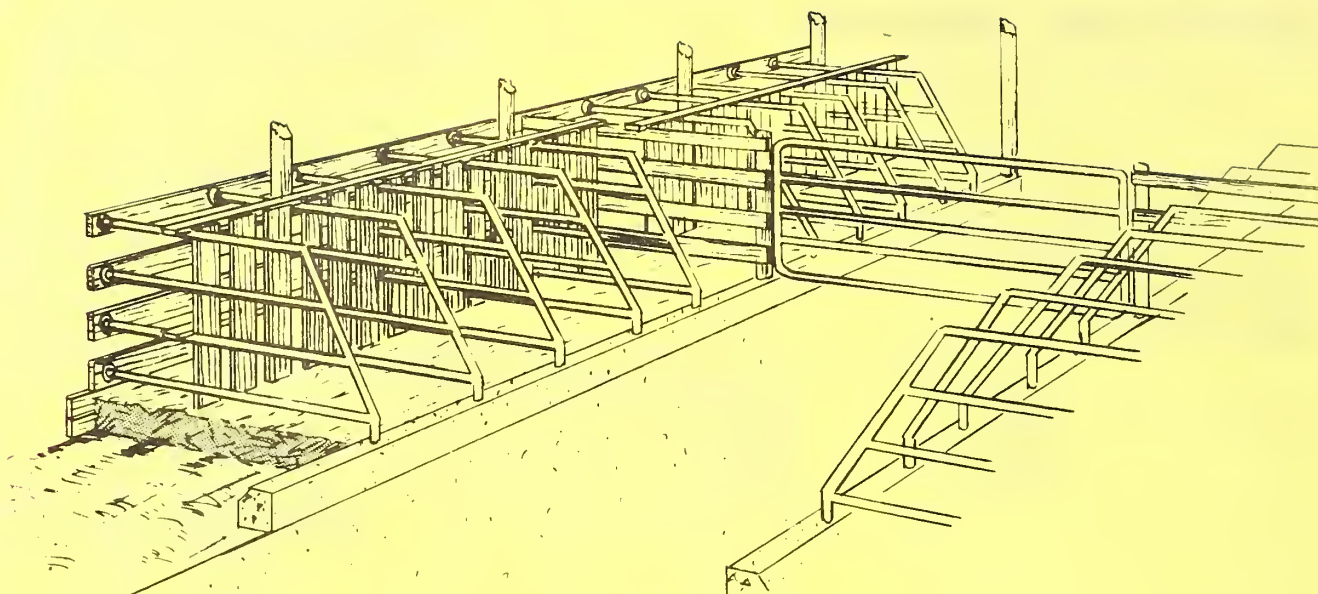
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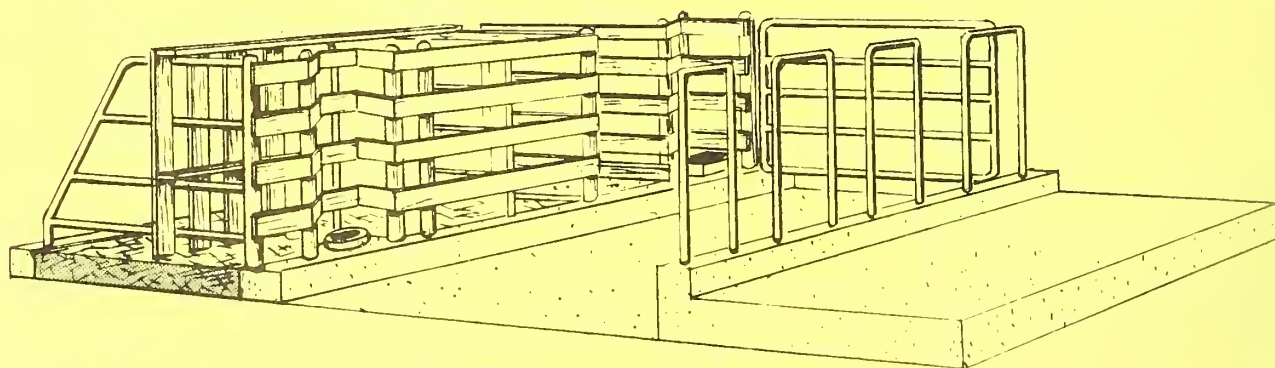


SECTION OF STALL ALLEY

made in design. All owners have expressed satisfaction with the results.

Features of the free-stall barn are:

1. Easy feeding along a straight, continuous feed bunk. The operation can be by mechanical cart, side-unloading wagon, or mechanical bunk feeder.
2. Use of two alleys with a gate system. This allows straight line cleaning with a tractor scraper, with no animals in the operating area. Similar advantages apply to bedding the stalls.
3. Free stalls have allowed minimum bedding consumption and very clean animals.
4. The barn can be used with any kind of dairy barn for the milking herd.
5. Owners report labor savings in the heifer enterprise up to 50 percent, with more animals and a superior growth rate compared with their old facilities.



SECTION OF FEED ALLEY

The detailed plan has been acceptable to farmers. Adoption has been especially high after dairymen have visited one of the units in operation.

Most of the heifer barns have been kept with one side open or with ridge ventilator and side inlets for cold, closed operation. This is a very specialized building, and costs have averaged about \$150 per heifer. This amount of investment can be justified by lower costs in labor, feed, and bedding, and by growth of larger heifers with high production potential.

CAUTION: Paint containing lead should not be used on cattle equipment or on parts of buildings accessible to cattle. Lead poisoning may result when animals constantly lick or chew objects covered with paint containing lead.

Working drawings may be obtained from the extension agricultural engineer at your State university. There may be a small charge to cover cost of printing.

If you do not know the location of your State university, send your request to Agricultural Engineer, Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. He will forward your request to the correct university.

ORDER PLAN No. 6102, HEIFER BARN—FREE STALL

